

STRANGE LAWS OF MUHAMMAD

Doctrine of the Mahdis. Whom
England May Fight.

FIERCER THAN THE TURKS

MILITARY RESULTS WILL BE MORE
INTERESTING.

Everything That the Prophet Did
Not Do is Permissible—Few People
Who Profess the Doctrine of the
Islam—An Interesting and Instructive
Story.

The twenty thousand English soldiers who are going to war against the Mahdists and reconquer the Sudan will not battle against human courage, but against the fanaticism of a strange religion. It is too soon to predict what the result will be, but the English military chiefs who have engaged in warfare of this kind are not too confident. The Abyssinians do not compare with the Mahdists in ferocity, yet they humbled the strongest armies that Italy could send against them.

The military results will be more than interesting when active operations are begun, but just now something about the religious history of these strange beings is not out of place. They are one of the many sects which believe in the teachings of Muhammad, or Mohammed, as it is more generally written, and like each of the others, they claim their dogmas are the only true ones, that all others have been perverted by the infidels, or Christians.

Few people have any idea of the numbers who profess the doctrine of Islam. There are very close to 2,000,000,000 in all, and they are divided into four times as many denominations as the Christian church. The sultan of Turkey is always spoken of as being the head of Islam, but as a matter of fact, only 15,000,000 believers, less than one-twelfth of the total number, give him allegiance. Of the rest 55,000,000 are subjects of the queen of England, and 1,000,000 are subjects of the emperor of China.

DIVISIONS OF ISLAM.

Islam is divided into three principal sections and the other sects are offshoots. The three are the Sunnis, of whom the sultan of Turkey is the reputed but not the real head; the Shi'ahs of Persia and the Wahabists of Arabia. The chief difference between the Sunnis and the Shi'ahs is the Khalifah, the Sunnis acknowledging the Abbaside Khalifahs, while the Shi'ahs maintain that Ali was the rightful successor of Muhammad, and that Khalifah must run only in his line. The Wahabists of Najd are the Puritans of Islam, and profess to bring back the religion to the original teachings of Muhammad.

The Wahabists are the extremists, and the Mahdists from the most extreme sect of these extremists. In other words, they are the most fanatical fanatics the world over. The Turk, who is so mild in his beliefs that the Mahdists disown him, has given the Christian world within the past year many horrible examples in the awful butcheries of peaceful Armenians of what mild fanaticism can do. What then will the Mahdists do? It seems impossible for the human mind to imagine anything more atrocious than the Turk, yet he is scowled upon by the Mahdists for leaning toward Christianity.

BIRTH OF THE MAHDISTS.

This sect of Mahdists is of comparatively recent birth. Mohammed Achmed, the carpenter of Dongola, chosen El Mahdi, or "The Messenger of God," by the religious societies of Cairo, Tunis, Tripoli and Algiers, initiated the "Jehad," or "Holy War," of eleven years ago. It resulted in the capture of Khartoum, January 26, 1885, and the massacre of the famous British general known as "Chinese" Gordon and over four thousand of his adherents.

Digna was immediately chosen by the Khalifa as his warrior-in-chief. Since that time the Khalifa has remained unconquered, though his warfare has been less active in the last three years.

A SKILLED GENERAL.

Oseman Digna at all times has led the Khalifa's troops, and has now been under arms almost constantly for ten years. He is a skilled general and is well up in the tactics of modern warfare. He is no mean foe and a terrible fighter, crafty and merciless.

If, as they claim, the Mahdists were true followers of the first Muhammad, they would be quite different from what they are. Eminent theologians of all lands have devoted their lives to a study of the life of this remarkable man, and their writings show that he was the agent of much good, that he was a sincere reformer of many evils and that he was not altogether barren of estimable qualities.

MUHAMMAD A POET.

Muhammad belonged to one of the leading tribes of Arabia. The Kurash, his grandfather, held the high office of custodian of the Meccan temple. He was born April 20, in the year 571 of the Christian era, about the time that St. Columba established his mission in

thing more than dreams, but they were so clear and well defined that they satisfied himself and his relatives.

Lord Wolsey, commander-in-chief of the English army, knows a good deal about warfare in the Sudan. While reconnoitering the position of the Arabs before Kassassin in August of 1882, he made a sketch of the scene, and the picture shown here was drawn from a photograph of that sketch.

WOMEN AND THEIR LOVERS.

It is easy enough to tell a man by his friends; but it is impossible to tell a woman by her lovers. One reason for this is a man usually shows himself to his fellows as he is; but it is impossible for his fellows to know how he shows himself to a woman, so long as he is in love with her. In that blissful condition the rude, off-hand man of business becomes to his mistress a picture of clumsy courtesy; the coward is capable of feats of valor from which a French cuirassier would shrink; the mean tradesmanly person will stop before the shops of jewelers, hesitate, and at last enter; the rake will honestly regret the hearts he believes he has broken, and for the moment, steadfastly purpose to lead a new life.



SHERIF OF WAZAN, CHIEF DESCENDANT OF THE FIRST MUHAMMAD.

Iona. At the age of 25 he married a wealthy widow named Khadejah. He was an Arab poet and gave some time to the construction of verses which express the feeling of one solemnly impressed with the existence of an Almighty God. One of these early productions now stands as the first chapter of the Kur'an. It is called the Fathiah, and is used as the patronymic of the Muhammadans. It runs thus: "Praise be to God, the Lord of all the world!"

The King of the Day of Judgment! Thee only, O God, do we worship! To thee only do we cry for succor! Guide Thou us, O God, in the straight path.

Muhammad's search after the truth is variously described, but that generally accepted is this: He retired to Mount Heera, in the vicinity of Mecca, and there living alone, in contemplation, he sought "the path."

His anxiety of mind became so great that in the agonies of distress he repeatedly contemplated suicide. It was then that an angel appeared to him in a dream and said: "Rise, O Muhammad, and follow me." He followed, and the result was the capture of Khartoum, January 26, 1885, and the massacre of the famous British general known as "Chinese" Gordon and over four thousand of his adherents.

But if these men find favor in the eyes of their respective women it is not for their pretty manners, nor their courteous, nor their generosity, nor their pure mindedness. The women are not repelled by their vices; that is all. They are not attracted by their late assumed virtues. Why should they be? They are not conscious of goodness, nor especially pure minded themselves; and, as for their pretty manners, perhaps their maids or their children could tell you something about that—that would astonish you not a little.—London Realm.

MADAME CRISPI.
The Wife of the Late Premier a Trouble Breeder of the Worst Kind.

Whatever the fate of the present Radical ministry in Italy it is in the last degree improbable that Sig Crispi will ever be permitted to return to office as prime minister. For besides being the bete noir of Queen Marguerite he has incurred the very bitter enmity of the half-appeared, which has never been more strikingly shown than in connection with the circumstances that led to the downfall of his cabinet.

The prince of Naples of late has developed a very strong character, in glaring contrast with his diminutive stature. He is a man of great intellect, and has done some very plain speaking, expressing his views about Crispi's responsibility for the Abyssinian disasters in the most unvarnished terms. Indeed, if rumors current in court circles at Rome are to be believed, the dismissal of Crispi at the moment when he was endeavoring to form a new cabinet, after convincing the king that the blame belonged entirely to his colleagues, is due to the prince of Naples' expostulations with his father.

King Humbert has never liked Crispi personally, but being himself too honest and upright either to understand or to consent to fathom the ungodly mysteries of parliamentary warfare in Italy, he has been led to believe that Crispi was the only man sufficiently direct to be able to secure legislative sanction for the measures which the king had at heart.

In this the present ruler of Italy differs from his father; for Victor Emmanuel used to enjoy nothing so much as playing off one parliamentary party against another, of putting rival statesmen against one another for a fight, and in upsetting at the last moment political intrigues, the hatching of which he had watched with much interest and amusement.

The prince of Naples is passionately fond of his mother, and resents exceedingly the fact that she should have been compelled by political considerations and sorely against her will to receive at court so notorious a woman as the present Mme. Crispi, who figured in the days of her stormy youth upon the police registers of her native city in Syracuse.

Of course the presence of Mme. Crispi at court led to the withdrawal therefrom of those great patrician ladies who had been led by their relationship to the house of Savoy to become members of the court of the quirk, even at the expense of bringing upon their heads the disapprobation of the Vatican. But Mme. Crispi was more than they could put up with, and when her husband, while prime minister, had actually the impudence to dismiss the millionaire duke of Torlonia from the office of mayor of Rome solely because the duchess had deliberately turned her back upon Mme. Crispi in the salons of the German embassy, where they happened to meet, that aristocratic lady realized that they could not win any respect to themselves, continue to appear at court, Mme. Crispi, as wife of a knight of the Order of the Annunziata, and that which she knew not.

Muhammad repeated the words with a trembling heart as he awoke, and then leaving the cave speedily returned to Mecca.

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EARTH'S ELECTRIC FORCE.

Nikola Tesla's Amazing Plan to Harness Free Currents.

The world is on the eve of an astounding revelation. The conditions under which we exist will be changed. The end has come to telegraph and telephone monopolies with a crash. Incidentally, all the other monopolies that depend on power of any kind will come to a sudden stop. The earth's currents of electricity are to be harnessed. Nature's power is to be put to use. The cost of power, of light and heat will be practically nothing. The scientific electricians who have for years been trying to master the mystery of electrical earth currents with which the ground beneath your feet is filled, are on the threshold of success. The success of the experiment they have heretofore made is much to them but vastly more to the people. It means that if Nikola Tesla succeeds in harnessing the electrical earth currents and putting them to work for man there will be an end to oppressive extortionate monopolies in steam, telephones, telegraphs and the other commercial uses of electricity, and that the grasping millionaires who have for two decades milked the people's purse with electrical fingers will have to relinquish their monopoly.

Nikola Tesla has discovered the secret of the electric earth currents of nature, and they will be adapted to the uses of man. He has succeeded in transmitting sound by the currents that make an electric net of the earth. The transmission of power will follow. His experiments reduced to commercially practicable uses will mean that men will be able to tap the electric currents of the earth and make them serve the purpose of industry and trade just as a well-drilled taps water or a miner opens a vein of coal. The mighty electrical energy that has been stored up in the earth for ages will be harnessed and made to move the machinery of men.

Electricity will be as free as the air. For the privileges of its use legislatures will not have to be bribed or men corrupted at the polls, and public boards will not have to be "seen" to bestow exclusive franchises upon corporations organized to use public property for purposes of private gain, and make the people pay the original and excessive charges for service in order to squeeze dividends out of copiously watered shares.

Monopolies for purveying steam power too will be forced to capitulate to free electricity, for with the latter, manufacturers will only have to connect their dynamos with the earth current to set the machinery in motion. The successful adaptation of Tesla's discovery will administer a death-blow to the most galling slavery that has ever yoked the activities of men to the treadmill of monopoly. Tesla is the wizard who is going to emancipate modern industries from the shackles of corrupting, dividend-grabbing, monopolistic corporations.

Sound travels with amazing speed, but electrical vibrations travel so swiftly that it is difficult to conjure up a figure which will graphically illustrate their speed. Here is one that will perhaps give you a vivid and lucid impression. In fancy place yourself at a table with a revolver in one hand and a finger of the other hand on the key of a telegraph instrument connected with a wire that carries the globe seven times and laps over on the eighth turn a distance equal to 11,000 miles. Pull the trigger of the pistol and simultaneously press the telegraph key. While the sound of the report of the revolver is traveling 1,250 feet the electrical impulse imparted by the pressure on the key will pass seven and a half times around the globe through the wire with which the key is connected.

Sound travels 1,250 feet a second, an electrical impulse 18,000 miles a second. If the electrical currents with which the earth is filled can be harnessed and put to work a new era in electricity will have dawned. It is to be hoped that the mystery of the earth currents and their adaptation that scientists like Tesla have been striving.

In the course of Tesla's experiments it is reported that he found in the vicinity of large cities there were so many conflicting earth currents that satisfactory results could not be obtained. He went out to Denver, and near there found a better field for experimenting. There he met a friend interested in electrical research. They went to Pike's Peak. Conspicuous among their baggage were two autographs.

Tesla and his friend scaled the rugged side of the peak. At an elevation agreed on they separated. Tesla skinned the peak and on reaching a point precisely opposite the place at which he left his friend he stopped. The two experimenters, on a line drawn straight through the peak, were thus separated by four miles of stratified rock. The two autographs had been delicately attuned before the scientists parted, and a time fixed for Mr. Tesla's comrade to play an air (also agreed upon) on the autograph.

Tesla waited patiently the arrival of the appointed time. Then he connected his hand with the ground in such a way as to secure harmonic resonance with the earth current. The manner and medium of this connection are secrets. The receiving autograph was equipped with a microphone. As the time approached for his friend to play, Tesla stood on the peak and strummed the appointed tune Tesla listened with rapt attention.

At last, as the tuning fork responds to its harmonic note, and on the strings of a piano, the autograph in Mr. Tesla's hands gave out the harmonic tones of "Ben Bol," which his companion at the station four miles away straight through the peak was plucking from the tense wires of his instrument. The experiment was a success. After many tunes had been played, Tesla and his companion descended the peak. A statement of the facts and results of the experiments was written and attested before a notary public as a matter of scientific record.

The electric currents are in the earth. Their strength is great enough to furnish all the power and light man needs. Mr. Tesla has overcome the initial difficulty and has located and tapped the earth currents. The rest will follow, as followed the telephone. Prof. Bell's discovery of how to transmit speech over a wire.

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